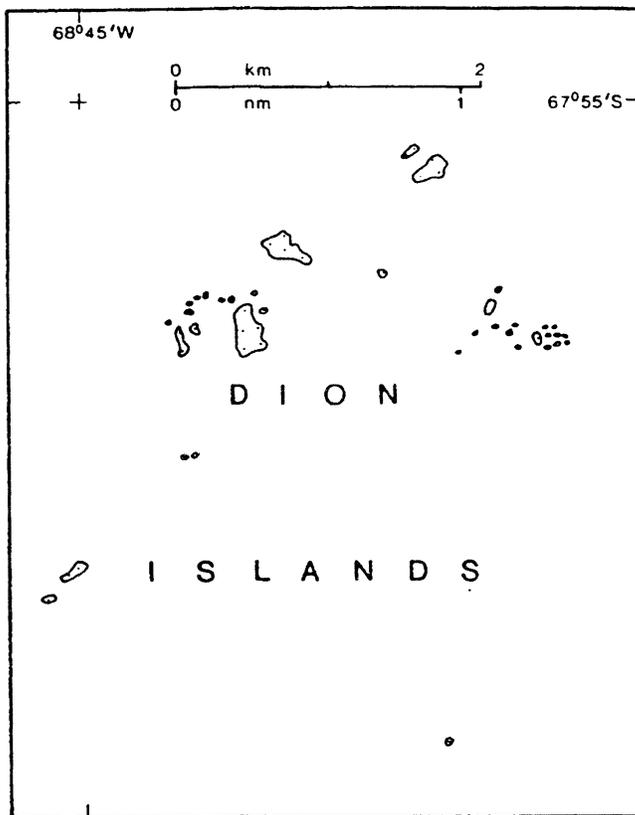


**Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 107 (Specially Protected Area No. 8)
Dion Islands, Marguerite Bay, Antarctic Peninsula; Lat 67°52'S, long
68°43'W**

1. *Geographical location.* The Dion Islands (67°52'S, 68°43'W) are a small group of low-lying rocky islands lying about 13 km south of the southern end of Adelaide Island, in the north-western part of Marguerite Bay.

2. *Management Plan*

i. *Description of Area.* The Area comprises all of the Dion Islands archipelago, which lie within an area of about 12 km², together with the intervening sea. The islands and islets are small, rocky and often precipitous, notably Emperor Island which is also the highest (46 m altitude). The main islands are the largest of the Courtier Islands group (c. 8 ha), Emperor Island (c. 5 ha) and the largest of the Consort Islands group (c. 3 ha). Low lying areas occur on the two largest islands. There are a few small permanent ice patches, but there are no streams or permanent pools.



ASPA 107
Map A*

ii. *Reason for designation.* The Area possesses the only known breeding population of Emperor penguins (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) on the west side of the Antarctic Peninsula. It is situated on a low-lying raised beach and rocky headland in the south-eastern part of Emperor Island. It is also the most northerly and probably the smallest colony (annual numbers fluctuate between about 50 and 500 pairs), and is one of only two in which breeding occurs on land (see also SPA No. 1). It is also the most isolated Emperor colony, being about 2,500 km (by sea) from the nearest other known rookery. Other breeding birds within the Area include a small colony of Adélie penguins (*Pygoscelis*

adeliae) near the Emperor penguin colony, and about 200 pairs of Blue-eyed shags (*Phalacrocorax atriceps*) on the precipitous north side of the same island.

iii. *Date of designation and originator.* November 1966, Recommendation IV-8, by UK.

iv. *Access points.* None specified, but access should be from the sea; landing on Emperor Island should be at least 100 m from the Emperor penguin colony or any non-breeding aggregations of these birds.

v. *Entry permit requirement.* Entry into the Area is only in strict accordance with a current permit, issued by a Participating Government or its authorised representative, specifically for a compelling scientific purpose which cannot be served elsewhere, or for site inspection, and which will not jeopardise any aspect of the natural ecosystem or its biota within the Area (see Antarctic Treaty Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora, Article VIII). Details of the visit should be included in the national annual report of Exchange of Information for the same Antarctic season in which the activities were carried out.

vi. *Prohibitions.* To avoid or minimise human impact it is prohibited to:

- a. and a helicopter within the Area;
- b. overfly the Area by any aircraft below 250 m above the highest point;
- c. use any of the Area's coves, bays or intervening water for anchoring or mooring seacraft, except in accordance with the permit;
- d. incinerate, bury or otherwise dispose of any non-human waste within the Area; all such waste must be removed from the Area;
- f. leave depots of fuel, food, or any other supplies within the Area, unless they are further required within the same season, at the end of which they must be removed;
- g. erect any form of building within the Area.

vii. *Pedestrian routes.* None specified, but every precaution must be taken to avoid disturbance of any breeding bird or seal, particularly Emperor penguins which pedestrians should not approach closer than 50 m, unless required as specified in the permit.

viii. *Scientific research and sampling.* All activities must conform strictly with those specified in the permit to enter the Area. Inspection visits to the Area should be made at least once every five years to assess the state of the site and to monitor any significant biological or environmental changes. Other visits should be made as necessary to maintain boundary markers, notices, etc.